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CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

HUNGARIAN ARTICLE DISCUSSES CIVIL DEFENSE
PLANNING AND MODERN WEAPONS

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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HUNGARIAN ARTICLE DISCUSSES CIVIL DEFENSE
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An article appearing in an October 1957 journal for Hungarian military engineers, discusses planning for nuclear civil defense. 1/ As the first such article known to have appeared in an unclassified Sovbloc publication, it may represent either an isolated breach of security or a step towards declassifying civil defense planning information.

The author states that factors governing civil defense development include the effectiveness of attack weapons; the importance, characteristics and vulnerability of the target area; and "what the country can afford." Of special interest to military engineers, the article states that engineering units of the armed forces "must be called in" to assist the civil defense rescue service in coping with the damage expected from modern weapons. Helicopters are considered to be the best means for observation and reconnaissance after an attack, outlying hospitals should be provided, and observation posts should be placed in more secure areas (presumably outside urban centers). The posts should be equipped to determine the epicenter of an atomic explosion. The persistency of fallout and the possible extent of the area of contamination were not mentioned. 25X1

Conclusions concerning city planning include recommendations limiting size of cities and population density, the dispersing of new important industries and the planning of new roads to avoid residential areas. Cities "threatened by atomic attack" should plan new residential areas to be at least 6.2 miles away. This has a similarity to USSR plans to build "satellite" cities around Moscow, Kiev, Leningrad, and Kharkov--first publicized in September 1956. These, however, are to be located at distances up to 31 miles. 3/ The Hungarian author notes happily that the civil defense principles for city planning are "identical" with those for socialist town construction.

Regarding air raid shelters, it is stated that construction using prefabricated elements is not "advantageous," and that a monolithic reinforced concrete structure is the only suitable shelter. These two statements are at variance with some past Sovbloc practices, such as the construction of basement shelters using prefabricated concrete ceiling sections and use of concrete pipe assembled to make light, detached shelters. The principle type of

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air raid shelter reported from Hungary, however, has been the reinforced concrete bunker with 8-foot walls, built at important industrial, government and communications installations.

On the basis of this article, it is possible to conclude that Hungarian civil defense officials had access to some nuclear civil defense planning data in 1955 and possibly earlier. In the USSR, similar data was probably available to civil defense officials at an earlier date, and perhaps in greater detail. There is little doubt that such information has been deliberately withheld from the Sovbloc public generally.

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